

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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S-E-C-R-E-T

COUNTRY USSR (Arkhangelsk Oblast)

SUBJECT 1. Port of Arkhangelsk
2. Warships in the Arctic

REPORT

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This is UNEVALUATED

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPROXIMATE CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

1. [redacted] there was a small submarine near position N 70-00, E 35-00. [redacted] and had a low conning tower with no apparent periscope. It had one gun on the afterdeck (see sketch No. 1). The submarine was dead in the water and there were a number of people on the deck who appeared to be fishing. [redacted] ship passed the submarine at a distance of one and one-half nautical miles with good conditions for observation. At the same time, at a distance of about seven miles [redacted] there were three or four small naval vessels in closer to land. They were alike, with a raised foredeck extending aft to the bridge, one gun on the foredeck, a short mast at the after edge of the bridge, and one low, raked funnel. On the stern there were slides for depth charges (see sketch No. 2). These vessels were also dead in the water. 25X1
2. [redacted] there were four small naval vessels at the shops on Solombala. They were all alike, about 50 feet long, with a flush deck, one low funnel, but with no visible guns. They were motor driven. [redacted] characterized them as "patrol boats". At the naval station on Solombala there were two sealers, each with an estimated capacity of 200 DWT. They were motor ships with one funnel [redacted] Off sawmill 16/17 a large ferry arrived with lumber and departed in ballast several times. At the shipyard right near sawmill No. 16/17 there were 40 to 50 open boats which resembled purse seiners. The hulls had been completed but only some of them had been outfitted with motors and four-bladed screws. A few had been painted gray. North of the machine shop basin there were two floating dry docks, each of which could accommodate a 6,000 to 8,000 ton ship. 25X1
3. [redacted] two small identical naval vessels passed sawmill No. 16/17 on their way down river. [redacted] Each was about 60 feet long, with an open gun mount on the foredeck, a mast at the after edge of the bridge, a break in the deck, a single raked funnel, another open gun mount, and an unidentified structure aft of the gun. On each of the vessels 25X1

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(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#")

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there were four torpedo-shaped, green-painted objects on stands on the decks. The stands were about one and one-half meters high and the objects were about four meters long. The stands were symmetrically placed; two athwart the funnel and two on the afterdeck (see sketch No. 3).

4. [] there were two naval vessels in tow by two tugs at a point between Cape Terakiy Orlov and Svyatoy Nos. They entered the White Sea. They were about 225 feet long, with a flush deck, one funnel, and one mast just forward of the funnel. The vessels looked old; they had no numbers and flew no flag. 25X1
5. [] small naval vessels were just off Knyaskiy Point due north of the mouth of the Severnaya Dvina. Some of the vessels were dead in the water close ashore and others circled about nearby. All were of the same type; each was about 100 feet long, with a flush deck, one gun on the foredeck, a mast at the after edge of the bridge, one funnel, and two guns on the centerline on the afterdeck. One of the vessels was slightly different from the rest in that it had a larger bridge structure and the forward gun of the two guns on the afterdeck was mounted on a raised structure (see sketch No. 4, a and b). 25X1
6. [] eight naval vessels lay side by side at the naval quay in Port Ekoncmiya. All were similar [] Each was about 100 feet long, had a steel hull, an overhanging bow with a spigot for minesweeping, one small gun on the foredeck, a bridge, a break in the deck, one funnel, one small gun on the afterdeck, and a long deck structure on the afterdeck toward the stern (see sketch No. 5). [] a Soviet merchant collier was at the quay in Port Ekoncmiya discharging coal which was said to have come from Spitzbergen. The quay at Port Ekoncmiya was equipped with three cranes of the same type, each of which had a lifting capacity of about five tons. 25X1
25X1
25X1
25X1
7. [] several series of thunder-like explosions were heard emanating from the area of Svyatoy Nos. The series lasted, in all, for about one-quarter of an hour. There were unequal periods of time between the explosions in a series and between the several series. The impact could be felt on [] ship but no smoke could be seen. 25X1
8. [] a large and a medium large naval vessel were underway on a west-northwesterly course near position N 70-00, E 34-00. The smaller vessel was following the larger, which turned off on an easterly course about eight miles from the above-mentioned position, while the smaller vessel continued on the previous course to pass about eight miles north of the above-mentioned position, at a speed of 20 to 25 knots. About one hour later the same ship or one like the smaller of the two described above was at a position about 12 miles farther to the northwest on an easterly course. The smaller ship was about 300 feet long with a raked bow, one gun mount on the foredeck with possibly two guns, an unidentified structure atop the gun mount, high conning tower, the forward funnel, then a break in the deck, a deck house in two levels, another mast or tower not as high as the conning tower but higher than the structure on the gun mount, the after funnel which was like the forward one, and finally the after gun mount with two guns, and a long afterdeck (see sketch No. 6). The larger ship was about twice as long as the other; it had a raked bow, two gun turrets with two or three guns each on the foredeck, a large conning tower, the forward funnel, an unidentified structure - possibly a gun mount - between the funnels, a mast, the after funnel similar to the forward one, a small tower, two turrets with two or three guns each, and finally a long afterdeck (see sketch No. 7). 25X1
9. Eight to ten old aircraft were at Keg Island Airfield. A couple of them were twin-engine craft. None were seen to take off or to land.

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25X1

S-E-C-R-E-T

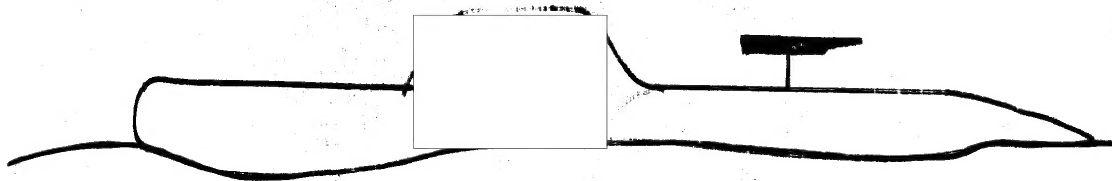
25X1

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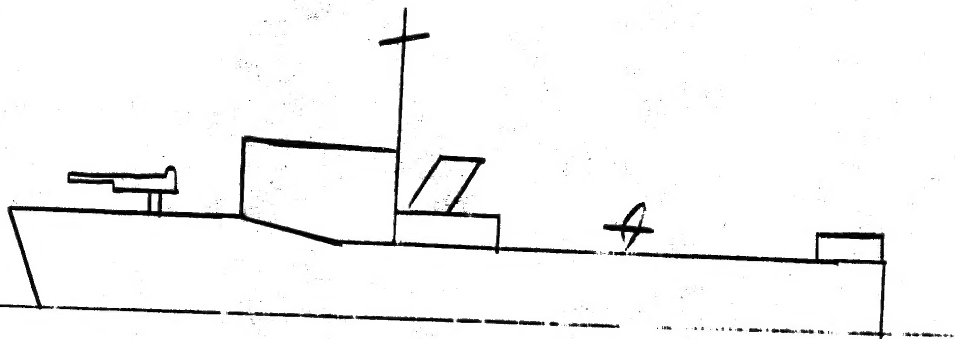
10. The pontoon bridge between Solombala and Arkhangelsk was not set out because of high water. No traffic was observed on the new bridge. It was ascertained that it had not yet been opened for use.

11. The consensus of the reports [redacted] was that the arrival and departure inspections were less intense than they had been in 1954, they averaged about one-half hour each; cameras and radio gear were sealed; crew members were allowed ashore.

25X1

Sketch No. 1Submarine near position N 70-00, E 35-00

25X1

Sketch No. 2Vessels near position N 70-00, E 35-00

S-E-C-R-E-T

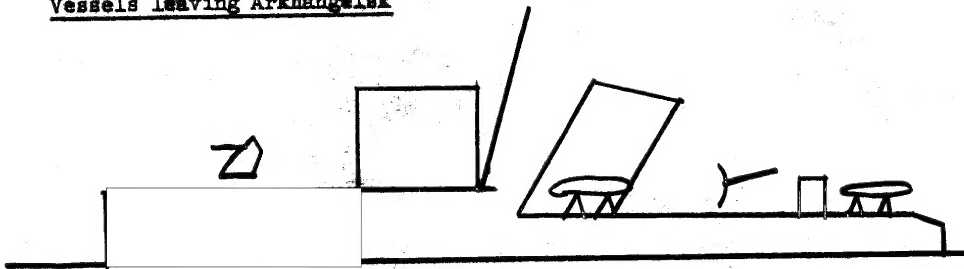
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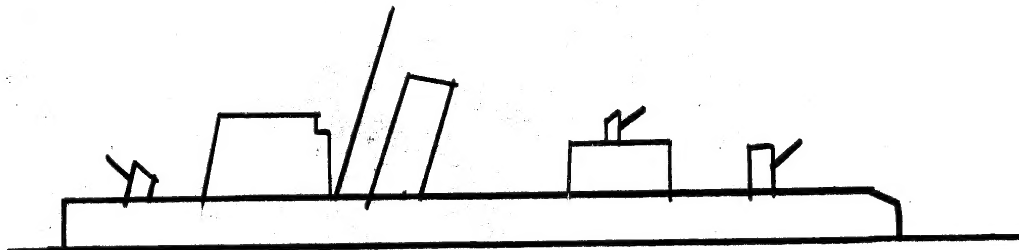
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Sketch No. 3
Vessels leaving Arkhangelsk

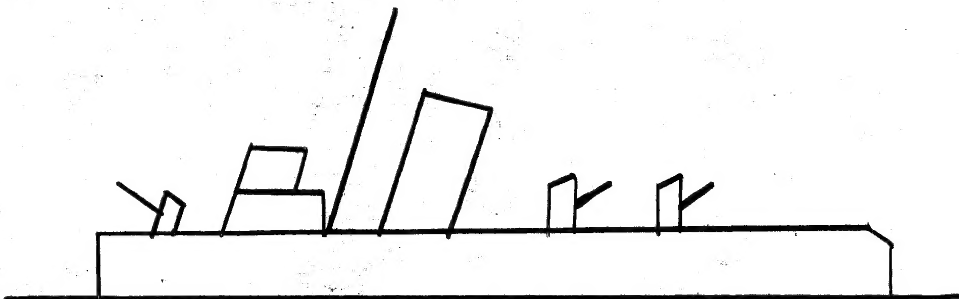


25X1

Sketch No. 4

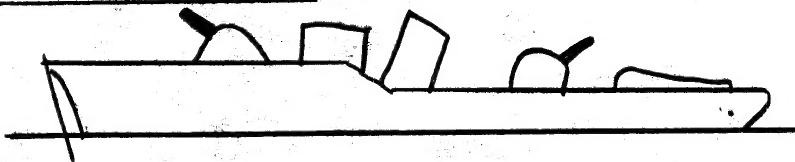


- a. The vessel slightly different from the other 17 off the mouth of the Severnaya Dvina



- b. 17 vessels off the mouth of the Severnaya Dvina

Sketch No. 5
Naval vessels at Port Ekonomiya

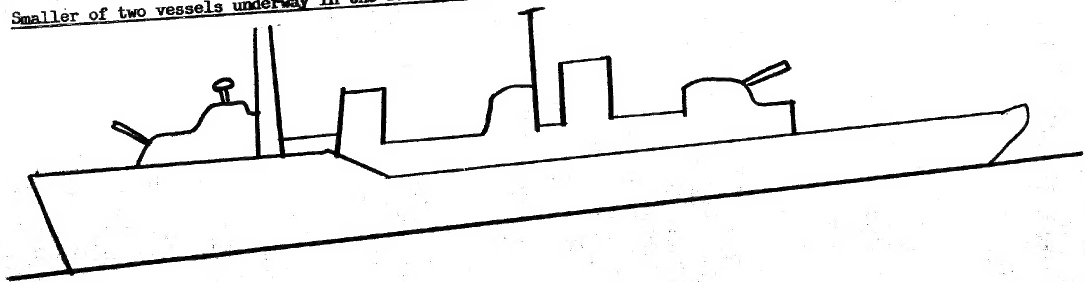


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25X1

Sketch No. 6

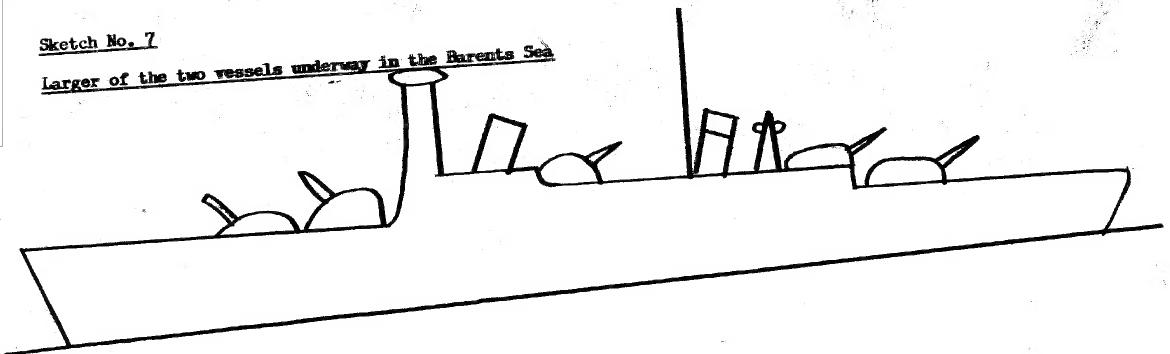
Smaller of two vessels underway in the Barents Sea



25X1

Sketch No. 7

Larger of the two vessels underway in the Barents Sea



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